STRONGER by DEGREES

A STRATEGIC AGENDA
for Kentucky Postsecondary
and Adult Education

KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

A Presentation to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue,
Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education
by Aaron Thompson, Ph.D. and Melissa Bell, Ph.D.
October 27, 2011

Kentucky Council on
Postsecondary Education

Academic Programming

An **academic program** is a combination of courses and activities that leads to a certificate or diploma or an associate's, bachelor's, master's, specialist, or doctoral degree (e.g. Bachelor of Arts in English)

Academic Programming

1,656 programs at public institutions, including

- – 521 programs at research universities
- – 896 programs at comprehensive universities
- – 239 programs at KCTCS

3,091 programs at non-public institutions licensed by CPE

Most Popular Majors

Certificates

- Nursing
- Welding
- Executive Assistant

Associate Degrees

- Liberal Studies/ Interdisciplinary Studies
- Nursing
- Business Administration and Management

Most Popular Majors

Bachelor's Degrees

- Elementary Education

- Biology

- Psychology

Master's Degrees

- Business

- Special Education

- Social Work

APPROVAL OF NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Statutory Authority

KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degrees, certificates, or diploma programs at the public institutions.

KRS 164.020 (19) permits the Council to postpone the approval of any new program at a state postsecondary educational institution, unless the institution has met its equal educational opportunity goals.

Fundamental Question

What programs should be offered by which institutions and at what locations to provide appropriate access to quality programs for the citizens of the Commonwealth in the most efficient manner possible?

Policy

- Notify Council of programs in the idea stage
- Eligibility to propose new programs determined by 13 KAR 2:060
- Two-stage process
  - Pre-proposal
  - Proposal

Certificates and Diplomas

Undergraduate certificates complete pre-proposal stage only.

- – Vocational-technical-occupational nature requires KCTCS review

Graduate certificates complete pre-proposal stage only.

Degree Programs

Complete pre-proposal and proposal stages.

Associate degree programs from four-year institutions require KCTCS review.

Advanced practice doctorates require additional information.

Procedures

1. Pre-proposal stage

- – Submit after approved at college level
- – Other institutions may comment

2. Proposal stage

- – Submit after approved by governing board
- – More detailed information than pre-proposal

Criteria

Central to institutional missions and statewide goals

– Must relate to mission and *Stronger by Degrees*

Quality and student success

– Learning outcomes, distinctive qualities, faculty qualifications, curriculum, flexible program delivery

Demand/unnecessary duplication

– Student, employer, and academic demand
– If similar programs exist, proposed program must be distinctive or access to existing programs must be limited.

Criteria (cont.)

Cost and funding

- Need for new resources
- Return on state's investment

Program review and assessment

- Achievement of learning outcomes
- Teaching effectiveness
- Post-graduation success

Criteria (cont.)

Advanced practice doctorates

- Builds on master's degree

- Meets practice/licensure/accrediting requirements

- Does not negatively impact undergraduate education

- Requires a sufficient number of appropriate clinical sites

REVIEW OF EXISTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Statutory Authority

KRS 164.020(16) permits the Council to close programs based on:

- consistency with institutional mission and state's strategic agenda.

- alignment with the priorities in the strategic implementation plan.

- elimination of unnecessary duplication.

- efforts to create cooperative programs.

2009 State-level Program Review

As a result of the last state-level program review for four-year institutions:

- 37 programs were altered.
- 43 programs were closed.

As a result of the last state-level program review for KCTCS:

- 13 programs were altered.
- 19 programs were closed.

Policy

Institutions conduct reviews and send results to Council.

Associate degree programs
– New programs reviewed after three years
– Existing programs reviewed on institutional cycle

Bachelor's degree programs
– New programs reviewed after five years
– Existing programs reviewed on institutional cycle

Policy (cont.)

Master's degree programs

– New programs reviewed after four years

– Existing programs reviewed on institutional cycle

Doctoral degree programs

– New programs undergo interim review after three years then full review three years after that

– Existing programs reviewed on institutional cycle

– Advanced practice doctorates submit annual report

• Full cost, all funding sources, performance over previous academic year

Criteria

Consistency with institutional mission and state goals

- – Contribution to institutional mission
- – Contribution to economic and educational goals of HB1 (as outlined in strategic agenda)
- – Alignment with strategic agenda implementation plan

Cost and funding

- – Student credit hour per instructional faculty FTE
- – Extramural funding

Criteria

Program quality and student success

- Attainment of student learning outcomes

- External awards or recognition

- Actual time and credit to degree

- Employer satisfaction with program graduates

- Job placement or graduate school admission

- Pass rates on licensure/certification exams

Criteria

Program demand/unnecessary duplication

- Number of students enrolled and credit hour production
- Number of degrees conferred
- Distinctiveness of curriculum
- Limited access to existing programs
- Collaborative efforts

Procedures

Post results to online Kentucky Postsecondary Program Review System.

- – Institutions make recommendations

Council will determine if programs:

- – Continue without modification
- – Continue with modification
  - • Submit three-year plan for improvement
  - • Submit progress report in three years
- – Close within three years

For More Information

New Academic Program Approval:

http://www.cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/280181DD-385C-4371-89D2-36EF9124B014/0/10_Program_Approval_New_Programs.pdf

Review of Existing Academic Programs:

http://www.cpe.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/906C3B96-2DA6-4211-8036-56B63D191050/0/11_Program_Review_Existing_Programs.pdf